The History of PostgreSQL
Open-Source Development

Bruce Momjian, Great Bridge LLC

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Abstract
PostgreSQL is successful only because of its vibrant open-source
development community. This presentation chronicles the building of
that community.
PostgreSQL Through the Years

1977-1985 Ingres

1986-1994 Postgres

1994-1995 Postgres95

1996- PostgreSQL
The University of California at Berkeley
 PostgreSQL Code Base History

✦ Ingres — research prototype, spawned Relational Technologies, purchased by Computer Associates

✦ Postgres — research prototype, spawned Illustra, purchased by Informix

✦ Postgres95 — added SQL, spawned PostgreSQL
Transition from Single Maintainer To Internet Development

✦ Getting approval
✦ Scouring the mailing list
✦ Todo list
✦ FAQ
✦ How does this thing work?
PostgreSQL Core Team

Top row: Thomas Lockhart, Jan Wieck, Tom Lane, Marc Fournier
Bottom row: Vadim Mikheev, Bruce Momjian
Assisting Our Developers

✦ Developer Education

✧ Developer’s Faq
✧ Source code flowchart
✧ Emphasize code clarity and people will respond

✦ Developer Recruitment

✦ Cvsup, remote Cvs

✦ Managing an increasing installed base
Keeping the Code Clean

✦ AUTOMATIC FORMATTING

✦ REMOVE UNUSED FUNCTIONS

✦ MARK SINGLE-FILE FUNCTIONS AS STATIC

✦ RENAME VARIABLES AND FUNCTIONS

✦ REQUIRE PATCHES TO BE OF ACCEPTABLE QUALITY
Developer’s Globe
Daily Chores

✧ Mailing list

✧ Answer simple questions
✧ Identify valid bug reports
✧ Work with users to test bug fixes
✧ Collect feature requests
✧ Encourage technical discussions

✧ Patch application

✧ Encourage

✧ Marketing
Packaging a Release

✦ Collect unapplied patches
✦ Resolve outstanding issues
✦ Regression testing
✦ Enter beta
✦ Resolve all bug reports
✦ Final release
✦ Collect and apply safe patches
✦ Issue subreleases
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Development Directions

✦ Features

✦ Performance

✦ Reliability

✦ Code simplicity

✦ Standards conformance

✦ Documentation

✦ Pace of releases
Conclusion

Top row: Thomas Lockhart, Jolly Chen, Vadim Mikheev
Jan Wieck, Andrew Yu, Tom Lane
Bottom row: Bruce Momjian, Marc Fournier